

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2011

Editor: Bill Jacobs

MELBOURNE ANC



Come to the Powerhouse in Albert Park (July 23 to Aug 4) for all your bridge needs:

Need more Gold points?

Sat 30/7 ... Open/Women/Seniors Butler¹
Mon 1/8 ... ANC Open/Restricted Swiss Pairs

Need more Red points? Or just more bridge?

Sun 24/7 Yarra Valley BC Swiss Pairs
Mon 25/7 Metro Sewing Centre Swiss Pairs
Mon 25/7 Dendy Park Bridge Club MP Pairs
Tue 26/7 OPSM Open/Restricted Teams
Wed 27/7 Paul Lavings Bridge Books Pairs
Thu 28/7 Max. I. T. Open/Restricted Pairs

Enter the above red point events on-line and save 33% on your entry fee!

Need lunch?

Buy soup and sandwiches at the venue.

Need parking?

Parking permits can be obtained at \$8.80 per weekday (\$2 on Sat/Sun). Or covered parking is available at \$10 per day if in before 10 am. Consult the ANC website for details: <http://www.vba.asn.au/anc2011/>.

Need to drink, dine and dance?

The Victory Dinner will be held on Friday 29/7: tickets are \$85 each.

It should be a great fortnight of bridge. Don't miss it.

¹ The winning Open, Women and Senior pairs receive a \$4000 subsidy to an international bridge event.

BIRTHDAY BOY



125 people from all over Australia and the world, including a sprinkling of bridge players, partied at the Point in Albert Park on June 19 to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ignacy Tyrmand (pictured above).

Pot-Pourri provided the entertainment, led by Tania de Jong, Henri's daughter. They finished with a rendition of "he did it his way", directed at the beaming centenarian.

Congratulations Ignacy!

VICTORIAN TEAMS FOR ANC

We wish all Victorian representatives the best of luck at the upcoming ANC in Melbourne:

Open: Simon Hinge - Peter Hollands, Leigh Gold - Jamie Ebery, Bill Jacobs - Ben Thompson. *NPC*: Ian McCance

Women: Jill Magee - Jenny Thompson, Shirley Collins - Meredith Woods, Mary Allison - Margaret Yuill. *NPC*: Chris Hughes

Seniors: George Gaspar - Boris Tencer, John Pettitt - Arie Meydan, Andrzej Krolikowski - Andrew Kaszubski. *NPC*: Paula Schroor

Youth: Liam Milne - Michael Whibley, Justin Howard - Max Henbest, Pascale Gardiner - Jamie Thompson. *NPC*: Grant Kilvington

PANACHE - XIV
Ben Thompson

The Australian Under-21 team won the Asia-Pacific Bridge Federation championship in Kuala Lumpur last month. I'm especially pleased (ok, proud) because my 14-year-old nephew Jamie was on the team. He told me about this hand he played against Japan on the phone from Manila, where he's with a school group working on a Habitat for Humanity project.

Dealer: E	♠ KJ98	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q3	
	♦ AK62	
	♣ Q42	
♠ Q643		♠ 75
♥ 62		♥ AJ108754
♦ 983		♦ 105
♣ AK95		♣ 73
	♠ A102	
	♥ K9	
	♦ QJ74	
	♣ J1086	

West	North	East	South
		3♥	Pass
Pass	D'ble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, the Japanese N/S cruised into 5♦, which has no play and wound up 2 off on the club ruff. 3NT is under some pressure on the obvious heart lead, but cold if you guess the spade queen.

Jamie did indeed get the ♥6 lead, but he found a way to make 3NT without the spade finesse. At trick one, he put up the ♥Q from dummy. East should duck to maintain communication with his partner, but perhaps concerned about conceding a tempo (ie timing) and a 2nd heart trick to declarer, East won his ♥A and switched to ♣7, taken by his partner's king.

Now West went back to hearts, setting up his partner's long suit, and Jamie put his thinking cap on. Sometimes people open a pre-empt with two bullets, just to mix it up a bit, but why would East fail to set up his suit when he had an easy entry on the side? No-one in their right mind, and very few in their wrong mind. So Jamie knew where ♣A was.

How about the heart layout? Were they definitely 7-2, or could they be 6-3? Embarrassing to knock out West's ♣A only to see him pluck another heart out of his ... quiver!

West started ♥6 and continued ♥2, which looks like a doubleton, but sometimes people start MUD (eg 6 from 762) and then continue low to try to fool declarer. That's also not likely here. Switching a club into dummy's Qxx is pretty unattractive, so if East thought there was any chance his partner had a 3rd heart, he would have continued them.

Jamie drew the correct conclusion, knocked out ♣A and refused the spade finesse later to score up 9 tricks and 13 imps.

Expert aside: Could Jamie tell who had ♠Q? It was more likely to be West than East, because with anything that looked like an entry, East might still have tried to set up his heart suit. However, with ♠Q, East might worry that setting up hearts would push declarer into take the spade finesse into the safer West hand. East fell at the first by taking ♥A, but good defenders avoid pushing declarer into a winning line if they can.

The takeaway

To place a key card, ask yourself what you would have done in the other seats if you had had that card. If someone made a play that would be weird if they had it, it's because they don't.



PABF U21 winners (l-r): Stephen Williams (ACT) Jamie Thompson (Vic), Nye Griffiths (npc), Daniel Braun (NSW), Lauren Travis (SA), Ellena Moskovsky (NSW), Shane Harrison (SA)

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ KJ754
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q109
 ♦ K9
 ♣ A85

♠ 63
 ♥ AJ853
 ♦ AJ84
 ♣ 106

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT*	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

* spade raise

Partner begins with ♥7. Could this be a singleton? So ♥A and another, declarer wins in dummy as partner follows ♥2. Declarer plays ♠K and a low spade to the ace: partner follows once, then parts with a low diamond, showing *odd*. Next comes a low diamond to the ♦10, ♦K and your ♦A.

What now?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ AK973
 Vul: Both ♥ K
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AKJ632

♠ 82
 ♥ A107642
 ♦ A7
 ♣ Q85

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♣*	2♥	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	5♦

* clubs and spades

Your partner leads ♥J, by no means a welcome sight. Dummy is awesome. You win ♥A of course. What is your next move?

Solutions on page 8.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Club Master	Roselle Peltz Peter Robert
Local Master	Jill Harris Peter Zeimer
*Local Master	Graham Lasky
Regional Master	Timothy Blizzard Phillip Heschke Myer Janover Leonard Vary
*Regional Master	Gerald Pearce
National Master	Lyndy Anderson
Silver Life Master	Barry Rawicki

Blaine Howe has been active in facilitating instant journalism on the web, and this will be tried out at the upcoming Melbourne ANC.

The idea is that after a session finishes, the hands are immediately available, and journalists can author stories about any interesting hand that was played. By browsing the site, you can read what the journalist had to say about hands you have just played.

To see the concept in action, visit <http://www.vba.asn.au/wwwHome2Col.php>.

Vale – Michael Dilks

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Michael last month – he was just 67. Michael was a first class bridge player: winner of the Gold Cup in Britain and several major events in Victoria.

There will be a Memorial Concert for Michael on Sunday 31st July between 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. at the Northcote Town Hall, 189 High Street. Some flowers from your gardens may be brought, but must be taken home afterwards. Members of the Preston Symphony Orchestra will play some music. Refreshments will be provided afterwards. If you would like to attend please email Michael’s wife at dilks@netspace.net.au.

Our thoughts are with Michael’s wife Ayin Ching and son Victor.

SYSTEM MUSINGS
Bill Jacobs

Last month, I noted that in the last decade or so, no new systems had been invented.

That isn't quite true. An Italian pair, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, started achieving fine results in the early 2000s with a unique system that subsequently was dubbed "Fantunes".

Among their many achievements, they have won, as representatives of Italy, the past two World Olympiads, in 2004 and 2008. In the current WBF world rankings, they fill the #1 and #2 spots.

I reported one of their slam auctions in the May Bulletin. It so impressed me that in 2009, I asked my partner, Ben Thompson, whether he would like to try learning and playing their system. He enthusiastically agreed, and we have been playing Fantunes ever since.

With an eye to determining whether the system was any good, I decided to keep a spreadsheet that would track its results. For every hand, I would compare our actual result with my best guess of what would have happened were we playing our previous system, which was Standard American (15-17 1NT, 5 card majors, 3+ card minors, weak twos).

I'm glad I did this, because the results have been quite startling, and given me a real insight into bidding theory ... an insight I would like to share with you.

Fantunes in a nutshell

The basic premise of the system is that there is no artificial forcing opening (like 2♣ in Standard, or 1♣ in Precision). Instead, *all* the 1-suit openings are forcing: they have no upper limit, and partner must respond.

To cater for this, the minimum strength for one-suit openings is higher than normal: about 14 points. Weaker opening hands are opened with 1NT or two of a suit.

A simplified summary (all point counts here are high-card points):

- 1♣ 14+ with clubs, or 15+ balanced
- 1♦ 14+ with 5+ diamonds (or 4441)
- 1♥ 14+ with 5+ hearts
- 1♠ 14+ with 5+ spades
- 1NT 11-14, balanced or semi-balanced
- 2♣♦♥♠ 10-13, natural, not balanced

After 1-suit openings, responder bids at the 1-level with 0-9 points, or at the 2-level with 10+ points.

The devil is in the details of how auctions unfold, but those are the basics.

In the two years we have been playing Fantunes, there have been 1459 hands where we would open the bidding at the 1 or 2 level in either Fantunes or Standard.

Here are the results from my spreadsheet, comparing Fantunes with what hypothetically would have happened had we been playing Standard American:

Fantunes opening	# deals	Averageimps per deal for Fantunes
1♣	300	-0.9
1♦	123	+1.4
1♥/♠	282	+0.3
1NT	398	+0.7
2♣♦♥♠	313	+2.5
Pass*	43	-5.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1459</i>	<i>+0.5</i>

* These are hands that would have been opened with a weak two in Standard.

There's a wealth of material in this table, but this month, I want to focus on just one line:

1NT	398	+0.7
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Like any born-and-bred Victorian, I was raised on Acol and the weak 1NT opening. In the mid 90s, with a change of partner, I switched to a 15-17 1NT opening, and had been playing it ever since, until taking up Fantunes.

The weak notrump is an essential part of the Fantunes structure, so I thought: "oh well, here comes the occasional painful penalty again".

Well, in two years, we've opened 1NT 398 times: guess how many penalties we've suffered in the process.

The answer is none. Not a single one². Oh there have been danger hands where we *might* have been penalised, but it's never eventuated. Here is a prime example that says it all about the weak notrump:

Dealer: W	<i>Smirnov</i>	
Vul: E/W	♠ 3	
	♥ AJ8543	
	♦ A8	
<i>Ben</i>	♣ KQ84	<i>Bill</i>
♠ J86		♠ 10952
♥ Q107		♥ 92
♦ KQ1094		♦ 7532
♣ A2	<i>Hung</i>	♣ 963
	♠ AKQ74	
	♥ K6	
	♦ J6	
	♣ J1075	

This was from the recent NOT in Canberra, and we were up against one of the hottest young pairs going around ... they were the eventual runners-up in the event.

Ben dealt and opened 1NT at unfavourable vulnerability. Looking at my 0-count, I thought: "oh well, it's been fun, but we are about to go for the *mother of all penalties*."

But this was the actual auction:

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Multi-Landy: hearts and a minor

Not only were we not penalised, but our opponents played their slam in a partscore!

A 1NT opening is a bidding weapon. More specifically, the weak 1NT is a bazooka – the strong 1NT is more of a popgun:



Weak notrump



Strong notrump

² Having risked putting this fact into print, I am fully aware that next week, I will probably go down -1400 after a 1NT opening is doubled.

When we open an 11-14 1NT, our opponents often need to, or want to, compete. But they have to enter at the two-level, and their bidding can never be precise. Nor can ours, of course, but at least we've started with a reasonably descriptive bid – the opponents are starting from scratch. In fact, we've penalised the opponents successfully on many occasions, after they have entered the auction over our 1NT opening.

The 0.7 imps per board (280 imps over two years) we gain after our 1NT opening is due entirely to competitive situations, where our opponents have been either frozen out of the auction, or have come in to the auction, unsuccessfully. In Standard, we were opening most of these hands with 1♣ or 1♦: these are much easier to compete against.

The same applies to the strong 1NT: the opponents cannot easily enter the auction. But the frequency is lower ... and when an opponent opens a 15-17 1NT, you rarely think: "oh dear, how are we to bid our game?" Most of the time, you are happy to stay out, or come in with a distributional hand to make *their* life more difficult.

Returning to that provocative statement I made last month: "*pairs playing Acol are using clearly superior methods to those playing Standard*" – it's all because of the winning weak 1NT opening.

... to be continued

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: S	♠ AKQJ972
Vul: nil	♥ 42
	♦ 1062
	♣ K
	♠ 103
	♥ K1083
	♦ AJ43
	♣ AQJ

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	5♥

West leads a trump, and East follows. Plan the play. Solution on page 8.

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP WRAPUP

Bouquets to Mary Bertuna and her team for the flawlessly run Victor Champion Cup Festival, held over the recent Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Mary went the extra mile by organizing the Dalai Lama to speak at the same venue: so players who had for example just lost a match 5 VPs to 25, could pop over next door and receive the appropriate meditational therapy.

Numbers were again very strong. The introduction of the Wally Scott Open Pairs on Thursday/Friday drew an impressive 34 entries, despite not carrying playoff points. This resulted in a total pairs entry of 153, compared with 128 last year.

VCC entries were slightly down on the spectacular 2010 result, but the Restricted events grew, both Pairs and Teams. This is very encouraging, because players don't remain in the Restricted category for ever: so growth means that fresh blood is being introduced to the bridge tournament scene.

It was great to see quite a few players from interstate playing in the Restricted events.

All in all, the Victor Champion Cup festival clearly occupies 3rd place on the national calendar, behind the Summer Festival in Canberra and the Gold Coast congress.

Victorian players did well (all place-getters listed under "Recent Results").

Phyllis Moritz and Len Meyer won the McCance Senior pairs – a popular win:



Phyllis Moritz and Len Meyer, with Ian McCance

Top seeded Felicity Beale, playing with Diana Smart, took out the Sara Tishler Women's Pairs:



Jeannette Collins, Sara Tishler, Felicity Beale

Ben Thompson and Bill Jacobs, playing with Ron Klinger and Matt Mullamphy, won the Victor Champion Cup:



Bill Jacobs, Jeannette Collins, Matt Mullamphy, Ron Klinger, Ben Thompson

and the Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams was won by Larry and Kathryn Attwood, Geoffrey Schaller, Roy Gordon, David Wei and Victor Zhang:



Geoffrey Schaller, Roy Gordon, Larry Attwood, Kathryn Attwood, David Wei, Victor Zhang

AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

Sale Bridge Club ran a most successful congress over the weekend of May 21. The VBA's Jeannette Collins and Stan Klofa won the Pairs Event (44 pairs), and the winners of the Teams Event (48 teams) are pictured below:



Sale Teams winners: Shirley Collins, David Yoffa, Julie Day and Marion Spurrier

July Congresses

The **Geelong Bridge Club** congress takes place on July 2-3, at the Highton Bowls Club (cnr Roslyn and North Valley Roads, Highton). There are Open and Restricted Pairs and Teams events.

Contact Sue Robinson on 5229 0300 for more details.

A week later, there is the **Philip Island Bridge Club** congress, on July 9-10. The venue is Newhaven Hall, Cleeland Street, Newhaven.

Contact Shirley Stewart on 0400 815 353 for all the details.

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Master Teams (corrected)

- 1 S. Arber, T. Chira, L. Meyer, P. Moritz

Board-a-Match Teams

- 1 J. Ebery, L. Gold, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson
- 2 L. Ginnan, P. Hollands, M. Henbest, S. Henbest, J. Howard
- 3 M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, L. Meyer, P. Moritz

Victorian Mixed Teams

- 1= E. Caplan, J. Thompson, B. Thompson, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs
- 1= N. Ewart, B. Howe, T. Garipey, K. Frazer
- 3 J. Magee, T. Strong, S. Weisz, R. Gallus

VBA Open Pairs

Final

- 1 M. Chrapot – G. Gaspar
- 2 M. Allison – S. Ozenir
- 3 A. Branicki – M. Gurfinkel

Consolation

- 1 S. Arber – H. de Jong
- 2 A. Segal – R. Kaplan
- 3 L. Meyer – F. Halmos

Victor Champion Cup Festival

Wally Scott Open Pairs

- 1 A. Bach – I. Del'Monte
- 2 S. Hinge – K. Morrison
- 3 J. Ebery – N. Rosendorff

Ian McCance Senior Pairs

- 1 L. Meyer – P. Moritz
- 2 B. Noble – G. Bilski
- 3 S. Tishler – B Richman

Sara Tishler Women's Pairs

- 1 D. Smart – F. Beale
- 2 C. Lachman – H. Snashall
- 3 J. Mott – G. Mundell

Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. Khemka – L. Ma
- 2 B. Romeijn – C. Fernando
- 3 G. Schaller – R. Gordon

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams

- 1 L. Attwood, K. Attwood, V. Zhang, D. Wei, R. Gordon, G. Schaller
- 2 R. Prickett, P. Afflick, C. Fader, R. Bodell
- 3 H. McAdam, D. Tylee, M. Hecker, R. Hecker

Victor Champion Cup

- 1 R. Klinger, M. Mullamphy, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson
- 2 B. Noble, I. Del'Monte, A. Bach, M. Prescott, G. Bilski
- 3 S. Hans, H. Dawson, T. Nunn, A. Peake

President's Cup (best all Victorian Team in VCC):

- 1 J. Magee, T. Strong, P. Schroor, D. Sheather

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: S	♠ KJ754	
Vul: E/W	♥ Q109	
	♦ K9	
	♣ A85	
♠ 9		♠ 63
♥ 72		♥ AJ853
♦ Q10632		♦ AJ84
♣ Q7432		♣ 106
	♠ AQ1086	
	♥ K64	
	♦ 75	
	♣ KJ9	

Declarer has been nice to you, not clearing his top heart. Cash ♦J to grab your third defensive trick, and then exit safely in hearts. Any other sequence of plays will crucify partner's club trick.

If declarer started with ♦Q, you'll just have to hope partner can furnish two tricks in clubs.

Problem 2

Dealer: E	♠ AK973	
Vul: Both	♥ K	
	♦ 5	
	♣ AKJ632	
♠ QJ1064		♠ 82
♥ J3		♥ A107642
♦ 6432		♦ A7
♣ 107		♣ Q85
	♠ 5	
	♥ Q985	
	♦ KQJ1098	
	♣ 94	

It seems best to remove dummy's trump, but there are two ways of doing that. Which did you select?

If you lead ♦A, you leave declarer in control, and he can find several ways home. If you exit ♦7, you kill the ruff, and declarer might have to guess to play a low diamond next if partner started with ♦10xxx.

Best however is to forget about trumps and simply return a heart – allowing partner to ruff the third round.

THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

Dealer: S	♠ AKQJ972	
Vul: nil	♥ 42	
	♦ 1062	
	♣ K	
♠ 654		♠ 8
♥ AJ75		♥ Q96
♦ K		♦ Q9875
♣ J9765		♣ 10842
	♠ 103	
	♥ K1083	
	♦ AJ43	
	♣ AQJ	

The main game is to hope the ♥A is onside.

You can give yourself a secondary chance by leading a diamond from dummy, planning to play ♦A. Maybe someone has a singleton honour, or doubleton KQ. Or maybe East, holding some number of diamonds to the KQ will split his honours – after all, on another layout, that might be a necessary defence.

If nothing exciting happens, you take the ♦A, discard dummy's diamonds on your clubs, and later say a prayer in hearts.

But if a diamond honour appears, you can discard hearts on the clubs, and build your twelfth trick in diamonds.

COMING UP AT THE VBA ... ELIZABETH SAWICKI ECLECTIC PAIRS

Dates: Mon/Wed July 25, 27, August 1, 3

Format: This is a matchpoint pairs event, where only your two best scores will be counted. You can play any number of sessions you wish, as this event takes place during the ANC.

Elizabeth Sawicki was a much admired member of the VBA in the 1980s and 1990s, representing the state on several occasions, including as a member of the winning 1987 Victorian Women's team.

She tragically lost her life (along with three other Australian sportsmen) at the opening ceremony of the 1997 Maccabiah Games in Israel, when the bridge over the polluted Yarkon River collapsed.